Since 20,000 MT of natural rubber is being procured presently by the STC against indents placed by the ALHs with the Corporation, there is no question of holding stocks of rubber by the STC now.

Disparities between backward and developing areas

†2234. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the disparties between the backward areas and developing areas have increased many times and backward areas in many States still remain backward for want of infrastructure despite the incentive provided for the setting up of industries in the backward areas;

(b) whether Government are considering a new incentive package to make efective and feasible strategies for backward areas for industrilisation and removing the disparities in inter-zonal development; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) After the announcement of the new industrial policy, investment decisions are based on the commercial perceptions of the entrepreneurs. Promotion of industrial development in backward areas is primarily dependent on the initiative of the State Governments. The Central Government supports the States' efforts through schemes like the Growth Centre Scheme, the Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme and the Transport Subsidy Scheme. For the North-eastern States, special focus has been provided through the announcement of a dedicated policy package. Additionally there are fiscal incentives for setting up industry in backward districts.

Rising trend in exports

2235. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) in which segments of economy, exports have taken a rising trend during the last one year;

(b) what is the extent of increase;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.